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Agenda item 46
The situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security

Afghanistan, Andorra, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Cambodia, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Haiti, Hungary, Iceland, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Samoa, San Marino, Slovakia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Tajikistan, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay and Yugoslavia: draft resolution

The destruction of relics and monuments in Afghanistan

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 53/203 A of 18 December 1998, 54/189 A of 17 December 1999 and 55/174 A of 19 December 2000,

Bearing in mind the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights of 16 December 1966[1] and the need to respect the common heritage of mankind,

Respecting the multicultural, multi-ethnic and historical heritage of Afghanistan,

Deeply concerned and appalled by the Taliban edict of 26 February 2001, ordering the destruction of all statues and non-Islamic shrines in Afghanistan, and by the deliberate ongoing destruction of these relics and monuments, which belong to the common heritage of mankind,

[1] General Assembly resolution 2200 A (XXI).

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Recalling the several appeals made by the General Assembly to all Afghan parties to protect the cultural and historic relics and monuments in Afghanistan, and welcoming recent calls by the Security Council, the United Nations Special Mission to Afghanistan, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and others, urging the Taliban to halt their destruction,

Noting that the destruction of the statues in Afghanistan, in particular of the unique Buddhist sculptures in Bamiyan, would be an irreparable loss for humanity as a whole,

1. *Strongly calls upon* the Taliban to abide by their previous commitments to protect Afghanistan's cultural heritage from all acts of vandalism, damage and theft;

2. *Strongly urges* the Taliban to review their edict of 26 February 2001 and to stop its implementation;

3. *Strongly urges* the Taliban to take immediate action to prevent the further destruction of the irreplaceable relics, monuments or artifacts of Afghanistan's cultural heritage;

4. *Calls upon* Member States to help, through appropriate technical measures, to safeguard the sculptures, including, if necessary, their temporary relocation or removal from public view.